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as Prof. Gray says, and also the work with which we are most familiar. It consists, as the title indicates, of "Figures and Descriptions of most of those Mosses peculiar to Eastern North America which have not been heretofore figured," and forms an imperial octavo volume with one hundred and twenty-nine copper plates, published in 1864. The letterpress and plates are simply exquisite and wholly unrivalled, and the scientific character is acknowledged to be worthy of the setting. The second volume was in course of preparation at the time of Mr. Sullivant's death, but the material was found to be mostly in notes on herbarium sheets, etc., and the work of editing was undertaken by Leo Lesquereux who alone was in a position to complete it. This was done as a labor of love for his friend, and though pressure was brought to bear to have the name of Leo Lesquereux appear on the title page, he would not consent, and it appears as the final work of Sullivant, though the preface acknowledged this indebtedness to Lesquereux.

In accordance with his wishes all his bryological books and his exceedingly rich and important collections and preparations of mosses were consigned to the Gray Herbarium of Harvard University with a view to their safe keeping and long continued usefulness. The remainder of his botanical library, his choice microscopes, and other collections went to the State Scientific and Agricultural College established at the time of his death at Columbus, and to the Starling Medical College, founded by his uncle and of which he was himself the senior trustee.

Mr. Sullivant was chosen into the American Academy in 1845; received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from Gambier College in his native State, was an associate of the principal scientific societies of this country and of several in Europe. His oldest botanical associates long ago enjoyed the pleasure of bestowing the name SULLIVANTIA OHIONIS upon a very rare plant, a Saxifrage, which he himself discovered in his native State on the secluded banks of a tributary of the river which flows by the place where he was born and where his remains now repose.

SPORE DISTRIBUTION IN BUXBAUMIA.

A. J. Grout.

Mr. Dixon in his Handbook of British Mosses states that *Buxbaumia aphylla* scatters its spores by the rupture of the capsule walls. Schimper in the Bryologia Europea states that the tube of the peristome is so narrow that the spores cannot pass out after the capsule dies and the peristome becomes twisted.

The peristome of Buxbaumia is so perfectly developed that it has not seemed probable to me that it could be a useless organ, and for several years I have been trying to get fresh specimens just at the time of complete maturity and before the spores had been shed. Early last June Mr. Walter Gerritson sent me in some specimens which were in just the right condition and when the capsules were lightly tapped with a pencil the spores were projected as far and as freely as in *Webera sessilis*. After dehiscence the capsules partially collapse so that undoubtedly some of the spores do escape by the breaking of the capsule walls but that this is the main reliance of the species I do not for a moment believe.

Prof. Goebel says that the breaking of the outer walls of the capsule of *B. indusiata* renders it easier for the raindrops to force out the spores (by reason of the lessened resistance of the capsule wall to the impact of the drops) so that he evidently believes that the peristome of Buxbaumia is functional.

NOTES ON NOMENCLATURE IV.—THE GENUS NECKERA HEDW.

By Elizabeth G. Britton.

There have been three genera named for Noel J. Necker (1729–1793):

Neckeria Scopoli Int. 313. 1777 equals *Capnoides* (Papaveraceæ).

Neckeria Hedw. Fund. **2**:93. 1782 equals *Neckera* Hedw. (Neckeraceæ).

Neckeria Ait. Gmel. Syst. **3**:316. 1791. equals *Pollichia* (Caryophyllaceæ).

The first genus named for him is not in use at present, being antedated by *Capnoides* Adans, but as there are one hundred and ten species in this genus, if it be divided, *Neckeria* of Scopoli would have precedence over *Neckeria* Hedw. Recognizing this fact Mr. S. C. Stuntz published in 1900 a Revision of the North American Species of *Neckera* Hedw., taking up the generic name of *Eleutera* Beauv. (1805). This name is antedated by *Rhystophyllum* Ehrh. (1780–1789) which was founded on *Hypnum crispum* L. (1753), which in turn was based on the descriptions and illustrations given by Dillenius (1741) and Robert Morrison (1699), both of which are unmistakably referable to the genus *Neckera* as at present understood.

As originally founded by Hedwig (1782) his genus *Neckeria* was described simply as having a double peristome, and included *Hypnum crispum*, *curtipendulum*, *viticulosum* and *sericeum* which have been referred to *Neckera*, *Antitrichia*, *Anomodon* and *Homalothecium*. The type species is the same as in *Rhystophyllum*, but that Hedwig did not understand the genus at all in its modern restricted sense is shown by his treatment of *Neckera*, in his Muscorum Frondosorum, ten years later, when he figured nine species which have since been referred by other authors to *Pilotrichella*, *Pilotrichum*, *Pterobryum* and *Cylindrothecium*, including four species of *Neckera*. Furthermore. Hedwig included one species of *Neckera* in his genus *Leskia* (1782) which was also a mixture, including *Pylaisea*. *Anomodon*, *Eurhynchium* and *Leskea*. In fact it will be found that the descriptions given by Morrison and Dillenius, and quoted by Linnaeus, are more lucid and applicable to the genus, than those given by Hedwig, and as Ehrhart's genus *Rhystophyllum* is monotypic, being based on one Linnean species with two illustrations, and founded on a specimen issued in a set of Exsiccatae, there is no question as to his meaning or the application of the name, seeing that its derivation from two Greek words meaning Wrinkled-Leaved, indicates one of the most noticeable characters of the genus as limited in modern times.